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D. B. Thomas,
c/o U.S.D.A. Subtropical,
Agricultural Research Laboratory,
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Dear Mr. Thomas:

Allow me to introduce myself. I have been a researcher and writer on the Kennedy Assassination from the very first day of the assassination. As an example of the writing I engage in please refer to my article in the latest issue of the "Kennedy Assassination Chronicles" Summer 2001. The article is titled, "Another Look at the Shot Sequence". This is an area I'm particularly interested in and I've written pretty extensively on.

As you can see I'm writing you and not using a computer (which I do not own). I believe my writing is pretty clear and that you will have no difficulty understanding what is to follow.

I should note here that I'm supposed to be a speaker at the Lancer conference being held in Dallas from November 16 to November 18. Although I wanted to speak on the number of shots fired during the assassination the Lancer people asked me to change the subject to another area of the assassination and I reluctantly agreed to do so.

I note that you are a scheduled speaker and will be discussing the acoustics area. By the way I have the "Washington Post" article of March 26, 2001 and also your treatise published in "Science & Justice" of 2001 so I'm thoroughly familiar with your analysis and was totally impressed with your work. I do not see how anyone can refute your arguments.

As much as I'd like to be in Dallas for the conference not only to meet you but also because I am a scheduled speaker I must be frank with you and tell you that I may not be able to show up.

You see I just recently had heart surgery (a valve was replaced) and I am recuperating at home after being released a few weeks ago. The usual recuperating time is about 3 months. If so, this would mean later than Nov. 14 before I'd be able to travel anywhere. I'll have to reach a decision in November between myself and my doctor as to whether I can travel. I do have my airline tickets paid for plus my hotel booked but I can always cancel these just before the date I'm leaving. Both the airlines & the hotel have assured me of a full refund if I choose not to go. As much as I'd like to be there I really have to consider my ~~health~~ health as a top priority. I'm sure you'll understand.

Apart from what I've written above there are some points I'd like to call your attention to which you might consider useful in your talk at the conference.

I trust you will be able to follow me in case I may appear to ramble but here are items I'd like to mention

(1) Curry's response on Channel #2 wherein he says "Go to the hospital" —

Refer to Volume 4, P. 161 of the Warren Commission volumes & the interview of Curry by Rep. Gerald Ford.

FORD: "You were driving?

CURRY: "Yes Sir"

FORD: "When you heard the first report, did you grab a communications set and give the orders?

CURRY: "almost immediately." (my emphasis)

Note here Curry's last comment and how it all fits into Curry's words as recorded on Channel 2. As you know Curry's remarks precede Decker's Channel #1 comment, "hold everything secure and Bellah's Channel #2 remarks," you want me... Stemmons."

By the way, Sgt. Bellah is listed as #190 appearing on page 462 of Warren Commission Volume 17. Three pages of the Channel #2 transcript appears here (you can check this out for yourself)

I want to also call your attention to the Warren Report itself regarding Decker and what he had to say on the police radio (see Warren Report, pages 664-665).

This is in a section titled "Other Rumors and Speculations" (5 pages in all). The report is in response to a "speculation" that Decker came on the police radio at 12:25 pm with orders "to calm trouble at the Texas School Book Depository.

It isn't clear to me whether the

Warren Commission is trying to debunk a version of the assassination occurring at 12:25 pm as reported in a Dallas newspaper which indicates Decker may have had advance knowledge of the assassination and naming the Depository as a possible (if not actual) source of the shots.

In knocking down this rumor the Commission finding was that the radio log shows Sheriff Decker came on the air at 40 seconds after 12:30 pm". Immediately following this is a statement by Decker in which he says "Stand by me. All units and officers vicinity of station report to the railroad track area, just north of Elm — report to the railroad track area, just north of Elm."

I cite this because I believe the first three words of Decker should not be "Stand by me" but instead should read "Stand by one" (my emphasis). This is because using the word "me" wouldn't tell me the who was ~~talking~~ listening in as to who "me" was nor where he was. "One" would, of course, refer to Channel #1 which would identify who it was and, possibly, where he was. I believe whoever was responsible for transcribing the tape made a human error and that it wasn't deliberate. To further add to the confusion the asterisk reference supposedly supporting this rumor "debunking" cites CE #705 at page 27 but it is not page 27 and is page 72 another of the typos I've come across in doing my research.

By the way in case you are interested if you'll consult the Sneed book "No More Silence", the so-called Dallas Police Department's acoustics expert, Bowles, lists the first shot occurring at precisely 12:30:55 pm with the last shot occurring at 12:31:03 pm which adds up to a total of 8 seconds in all.

It is my contention that the very first shot striking Kennedy was at Z-189 with the last shot striking him at Z-313 which totals to 6.78 seconds. The difference between 6.78 and 8.0 is about 1.22 seconds and I would argue that this 1.22 seconds represents the actual time it took for the dispatcher to write down the time of the first shot (he didn't have to worry about writing down the time of the last shot since he observed this on the clock and therefore would not have to take time in writing this down). It was there in his mind so even if he wrote it a minute later (the last shot) the timing would still be recorded as 12:31:03. (For the Bowles statement, see page 180 of the Snoop book. Bowles is a total believer in the Warren Commission & went out of his way to ridicule the acoustics area of the House Select Committee. Should you ever need a copy of the Bowles report I have a copy which you may find useful in your research & I'd be glad to send you a copy. Lamer probably also has a copy & it may well be on the Internet.

For your information it was a Gerald Hensley who was operating Channel #2 at the time and as dispatcher he said, "12:30 KK 9364 Police Department, Dallas"

Ironically enough Bowles says (in the Snoop book): "There were certain places you could tend to look Channel 1 and Channel 2 together such as things

that transpired where there's cross talk (sic) between the channels of where they used a simultaneous broadcast and went on both channels." (see page 178).

Bowles, in case you didn't know, notes that "Sgt. Bellah was waiting for the signal to stop the north bound Stemmons traffic." (see p. 180 of the Inwood book).

(2) Possible reference to the Pergola:

Please note that on page 26 of your treatise in "Science & Justice" you refer to "smaller impulses in the evidence pattern were echoes originating with a colonnade arc which was a structure to the front of the motorcycle. It was reasoned that the amplitude of these echoes might have been attenuated by the motorcycle's windshield."

I think your reasoning is right on target but what I'd like to know is whether your reference to a "colonnade arc" is meant the Pergola at which one end of Zapruder did his filming & which he was in front of? If it is it will help me in assessing evidence that the very first shot was fired from behind the pergola and a silencer was used with a pistol firing "ice bullets". I realize this is a highly speculative notion on my part (and I do not try to indulge in fighting fanciful ideas) but it seems to be the only valid thesis for which the first shot can be explained. I do not think the first shot came from behind the

picket fence & the pergola makes the most sense to me, at least. By the way in support of my argument that perhaps an "ice bullet" was used you may or may not be aware of the fact that during the autopsy of Kennedy at Bethesda one of the FBI agents left the autopsy room briefly & put in a call to the FBI main office & asked - "What have you got on ice or plastic bullets". What kind of response he received I don't know as I haven't followed up on this but wouldn't it be interesting to know. The reference to the "ice or plastic bullet" can only refer to the neck shot and cannot possibly refer to the head shot (or shots as some contend) since this latter event would've left an obvious impact whereas a neck shot only left a hole in the neck and no trace of a bullet indicating that, perhaps, an ice bullet could've melted on impact.

By the way it is my argument that a sophisticated pistol was used from behind the pergola and even though it could have been a silencer it could very well have sounded like a "firecracker". Does this sound acoustically possible & could it be that the further away from the very first shot would make people think it did sound like a firecracker? I don't know the answer to this question but I do offer it to you as to what you may think.

(3) Witness to assassination claims witnesses "who were a block or two away ... said the sounds of gunfire which they had heard sounded like more than three shots" (my emphasis!).

Please refer to a book published in 1993 titled "Triangle of Fire" by Bob Goodman. (You may be able to acquire a copy from Lancer). Goodman was a witness to the assassination and this book is about what he heard and saw.

Goodman never mentions precisely when he stood throughout the entire book but I want to call your attention to page 200. On that page he writes the following:

"When I asked these people who were a block or two away how many shots they thought were fired, I began to notice a pattern. All of the people who were at a distance from the actual location where the President was shot and that sounds of gunfire which they had heard sounded like more than three shots. The overwhelming response was that it sounded like many shots fired in groups or volleys. Some even commented that it sounded like many shots from different types or calibers of weapons or sequences of rapid successions of shots from different locations."

Further on, as if to confirm the "more than three shots" scenario, Goodman writes on page 201: "Many of those who had

heard, but had not seen, exactly what had happened said that there sounded like there were seven or eight shots, as far as they could tell. I asked all of the people with whom I spoke about this situation, if perhaps there could have been echoes, in their opinion, that might have accounted for the sounds that they had heard. Every person said there was no mistake about what they had heard and they were not echoes. They said that the shots fired were very distinct in the sounds that they had made, and there was no doubt that there were many more than just three shots fired."

Goodman concludes that "those who were not at the actual murder site received a better, overall audio effect of what had happened ---"

My question to you is this - based on your knowledge of acoustics and what Goodman relates above is this a reliable acoustics phenomenon, in your opinion? Apart from whether or not the "echo" scenario may have played a role there is also the question of silencers being used in the assassination since if there were more than three shots fired silencers would necessarily have to be used. Is this what Goodman calls an "overall audio effect"?

I realize that I may have over-burdened you with all these questions above but I do appreciate your reply. And if I can attend the Dallas Conference I'd be happy to meet with you.

Best,

Hal Verb